

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to Examiners Andrew Wang and Jon B. Ashen for the courtesy of the interview conducted on November 2, 2005 to discuss the possible claim limitations that could be introduced by amendment to overcome the outstanding rejections.

After entry of the amendments discussed during the interview, the pending claims are 1, 3-9, 11-17, 22, and 44. Claims 1, 3, and 13 are amended as shown above. Claims 2 and 10 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 58-60 are new claims.

All new and amended claims are supported by the specification and originally filed claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of originally filed claims 2 and 10, which are also supported in the specification, for example, on pages 11-13. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Claims 58-60 have been added to recite particular embodiments of the invention. Support for a length limitation of 20 nucleobases is found on page 16 of the specification as well as on pages 75-81 in the examples. In addition, SEQ ID NO: 35 is 20 nucleobases in length and is described in Example 15. No new matter is introduced by these claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 102/103

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 9-13, and 22 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102 and/or 103 by Hardin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,083,695), claims 1-4, 6, 9, and 22 by Marmaro et al. (U.S. Patent 6,605, 451), and claims 1-9, 14-17, 22 and 44 by Monia et al. (U.S. Patent 6,284,538). All claims have been amended to include the limitation of claims 2 and 10. Thus, the amendments have rendered each rejection moot. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants have enclosed herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and request consideration of the documents cited therein. Applicants note that the documents cited therein include references AO, AP, and AR from the information disclosure statement filed 8/13/2003 and respectfully request consideration of these

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documents as to the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason D. Ferrone, J.D.
Registration No. 52,887

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ISIS Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
1896 Rutherford Rd.
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Telephone: (760) 931-9200
Facsimile: (760) 603-3820